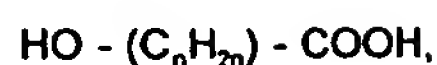
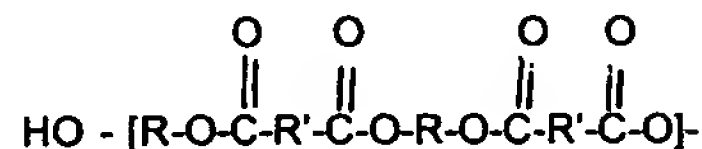


monomer of the general formula:



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 21; and (ii) obtained from the combination of a diacid and a diol and corresponds to the formula:



wherein R is an aliphatic hydrocarbon residue with 2, 4 or 6 carbon atoms; and R' is an aliphatic saturated or unsaturated divalent hydrocarbon residue with 2 to 22 carbon atoms.

Cancel Claim 40.

Amend Claim 41 as follows:

41. (amended) The composition according to Claim [40] 75 wherein the ester group of the esterified starch is selected from the group consisting of C₂ to C₈ [starch] esters.

In Claims 42 and 43, line 1, change [Claim 40] to Claim 75.

Amend Claim 48 as follows:

48. (amended) The composition according to Claim [40] 75 wherein the starch ester is a physical blend of at least two [different] starch esters having different ester groups.

In Claims 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54, line 1, change [Claim 40] to Claim 75.

In Claims 51 and 52, line 1, change [derived] to obtained.

Rewrite Claim 55 as follows:

55. (amended) A composition according to Claim [40] 75 wherein the aliphatic hydroxy-carboxylic acid is hydroxy caproic acid [in the form of] and the linear polyester is a cyclic ester.

In Claims 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64 and 65, line 1, change [Claim 40] to Claim 75.

In Claim 72, line 3 and Claim 73, line 2, change [plastifying] to plasticizing.

Add the following claims:

76. The composition according to Claim 41 wherein the linear polyester is obtained from an